

KARO ECHO Newsletter

February 2019

MEETINGS and NETS

The KARO ECHO Net meets on 146.415 MHz Simplex each Thursday evening immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but not before 1900 local time.

The West Contra Costa County ACS/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 145.110 MHz repeater (TX down 600 with PL 82.5) at 1845 local time.

The Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 3893 KHz at 1835 local time.

Am. Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA) meets every Wednesday at 2000 local time on WW6BAY repeater 443.975 MHz, TX +5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

KARO ECHO meets in person at 7:30 PM on the second Monday of each month at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707 in the Upper East Room. Ample parking is available. The next meeting is this coming **Monday, February 11, 2019.**

The December 2018 and January 2019 Minutes are on the website in the past events page. Thank you, Natalie KM6UCF.

EDUCATION and LICENSING

The **Benicia Amateur Radio Club (BARC)** will be holding a 1 day ham class and licensing session (Ham Cram) on May 4th, 2019. See HYPERLINK "http://beniciaarc.com/wp/?page_id=8" http://beniciaarc.com/wp/?page_id=8

KARO ECHO and the **East Bay ARC (EBARC)** will jointly sponsor a Technicians class course beginning Wednesday, April 3, 2019. It will run for 10 weeks ending with a Technician Class exam from 6:30-9 pm. The class is free. The textbook is The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 4th Edition. Books will be available for purchase. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners for a fee of \$15. Please register by late March. More information will be forthcoming at HYPERLINK "<http://www.ko6no.com>" www.ko6no.com. Click to Register, or email: ko6no@comcast.net, or Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830. This class will be offered in El Cerrito at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd. 94530

The **Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC)** also offers courses and exams. See <http://www.mdarc.org/activities/education/Classes> and <http://www.mdarc.org/activities/license-testing>. Tests are offered at 6 pm before the MDARC regular meeting begins.

KARO ECHO HAPPENINGS

KARO ECHO hopes to run a one-day Ham Cram, also at Arlington Park Clubhouse in early summer or late Spring, thus providing us adequate time to widely publicize it through local community newsletters, CERT groups, newspapers, and digital media outlets that cover our area.

This will be a recruitment push for needed new operators in Kensington and El Cerrito. Recruitment--as well as engaging our current and past members--should be seen as an essential ingredient and high priority if we are to reach our service potential.

Action Item: Become a Volunteer Examiner (VE) in the ARRL VEC program. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve> and take their free open book test to become a VE.

KARO ECHO has recently received sponsorship from the City of El Cerrito for fee-free use of their facilities for club activities, thanks to the diligent work of Howdy, KE6BEE. Howdy also helped install antennas at KM6UCF and NI6A and is a lead on our Electronics Hardware and Maintenance team. This is a great opportunity to learn basic electronics trouble shooting, antenna installation, and equipment design/planning and maintenance (see HYPERLINK "<https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/physical-infrastructure>" <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/physical-infrastructure>). The team is now working on reconditioning 3 older KaroEcho 50 watt Kenwood radios and a Diamond X-500 HNA antenna.

Action Item: We can use your technical know-how and help, please.

Rob, K6RJM, has put together a binder for each of our KARO ECHO installed communications sites. Each binder contains ICS-213 forms, a radio and site operations crib sheet, a net Control Station Operations Sheet, a net log (ICS-309), the revised KARO ECHO Field Resources Operations Handbook, an annotated 2m and 70cm simplex frequency list, pencils, erasers, etc. The Kensington sites were so stocked and maintenance performed at the KCC, Hilltop School, and Fire Station 65 by Marian KC6OBK, Jerry K6KOP, and Rob K6RJM.

Action Item: We will be installing these at Harding, Tassajara, FS 72, FS 71, and the EOC in the future.

New Post Office Box and Bank Account

Larry, KK6GIO, the KAROECHO treasurer has been busy readying us to apply for a 501(c)3 tax-deductible non-profit status. Larry has ascertained a bank account and tax number for KAROECHO and also has established a KAROECHO post office box at the US Post Office adjacent to El Cerrito plaza. That has been accomplished by personal expenditures which we hope will be recouped by donations, fundraising, and dues.

Action Item: Please send in dues to KARO ECHO -- P.O. Box 2025 -- El Cerrito, CA. 94530-3651 or see Larry at this Monday's Meeting at the KCC. You can still be a non-voting member of KAROECHO without paying dues, but only licensed Amateur Radio Operators and dues paying members will be allowed to vote. So if you can't afford \$30 for full membership (or \$40 for family membership), please come and participate anyway.

Congratulations to our Net Manager, Howdy KE6BEE, who has been elected as a standing member of KAROECHO's Executive board. Thank you for your quality efforts and diligence.

Harding School Clubhouse News

A group of intrepid KAROECHO members of the The Electronics and Hardware Committee braved the rain on Feb 9 to install a 8' 6 dbd gain antenna at KM6UCF's QTH, and also check-out the 50w KAROECHO dual-band Kenwood radio and Diamond X-500 HNA antenna and coax installed in the office. Full output and low SWR were measured. Currently there is a 35 amp Astron Power Supply; but the team is considering installing a 105 AH AGM deep cycle battery with a float charger/or simply run the coax outside to a weather proof lockbox so that access could be achieved 24/7 in the advent of a disaster and power failure. Special thanks to KE6BEE for providing access.

Simulated Emergency Test (SET) to be held Feb. 23, 2019 from 0930 -1230

There will be a **KARO ECHO Simulated Emergency Test (SET)** on February 23 running from 0930 to 1230 hours. We plan to run two SETs a year in order gain hands-on experience, test our equipment, and refine our procedures. The scenario is a 6.8 – 6.9 earthquake centered in Kensington under Fire Station 65. We will have members check in to the net at 0930 and NCS will dispatch operators to various portable/mobile sites such as the EOC and CERT Area Incident Command Posts (ICPs). Mock messages will be handed out to all participants at the next KARO ECHO Meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, you will be emailed the mock messages and plan. Each participant will be given at least two time-stamped messages to send. All assignees will also receive at least two messages to copy.

Action Item: Please let Don ([HYPERLINK "mailto:ni6a@arrl.net"](mailto:ni6a@arrl.net) ni6a@arrl.net) if you

can participate. **WE NEED MORE OPERATORS** in order to learn from this test. Requirements are: 1 portable radio, a mobile or portable gain antenna, and a portable setup capable of battery/emergency power.

The general SET Plan can be found at HYPERLINK "<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o5gVcjiJt1AgHXnmtOgn0O2okmZWZaN1/view>" <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o5gVcjiJt1AgHXnmtOgn0O2okmZWZaN1/view>

A chronological list of planned events can be found at HYPERLINK "<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1giUAx8epCxAFajHyEmQM1m4wl6zdavry>" <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1giUAx8epCxAFajHyEmQM1m4wl6zdavry>

These two files will be updated often as Feb, 23 approaches and can be found on the <https://www.karooecho.net/events> page.

Ham Volunteer List as of Feb 8

Rob, WQTP332, K6RJM
Ken, WRCH945 KK6SRD
Jamuel WQYN969 KM6HBO **EOC Alpha**
Larry WRCD625 KI6GIO **KEN1**
Don WQXJ891) NI6A
Jay WRAP287 KJ6WSS **EC7**
Natalie KM6UCF
Karen, WRAP287 KK6ZPM **EC5**
Howdy WRCF482 KE6BEE **NCS**
Hal KK6NDF **KEN6**
Mike KJ6BHX **Relay 1 and EC1**
Armando KE6HCE **EC2**
Mike WQGU363 KM6CXI **EC9**
Peter WQIW958 KJ6DYX **Ken 5**
Dave, WRBU532, KM6TCB
Weldon, W7WEB
David, KJ6AAT
Diane KK6RED

We would like to have at least 1 ham at each CERT Staging Area and two hams at the EOC, a well located Relay Station, and a NCS. This exercise will be useful for RF mapping, net operation skill sets, message handling efficiency, and familiarity with portable, mobile, and emergency power radio equipment use. If you have mobile capability, please bring it. Sign up in advance for pre-deployment assignments.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Radio Mapping of CERT Areas

We plan to do extensive radio mapping of KE/EC radio hotspots and dead spots in the near future. This can be enhanced if members can check in to the Thursday night net from different mobile and/or portable locations. If you are mobile or portable, let the NCS know by checking in with your full phonetic callsign followed by the word portable or mobile. An example: "Whiskey Six Lima Kilo Echo mobile" or "Kilo Six Alpha Bravo Charlie portable". Net control will later ask for your specific location after the check-in procedure is completed.

Further **simplex mapping** to all other Kensington/El Cerrito CERT designated staging areas as well to the Fire Stations and EOC is planned as a future group activity. Please send Don HYPERLINK "mailto:ni6a@arrl.net" ni6a@arrl.net a message if you are willing to help. In the meanwhile, we will continue mapping on the

Howdy, KE6BEE our net manager has established a regular NCS rotation. As all will testify, practice makes perfect. Our entire community will benefit from your proficiency.

Action Item: Please contact Howdy for net control assignments and procedures. The updated Net protocol and instructions can be downloaded at: HYPERLINK "https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MkZRFfjtrMSB7AWcAZZnJ6rNVKfADbav/view" <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MkZRFfjtrMSB7AWcAZZnJ6rNVKfADbav/view>

ELMERING

Don is available for **Elmering/Mentoring**.

Email HYPERLINK "mailto:ni6a@arrl.net" ni6a@arrl.net

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature.

GMRS/FRS

KARO ECHO currently has twelve dual-licensed GMRS/Ham operators; but more are desired in order to provide a parallel network to ease congestion on our ham bands. Contact the FCC for information on getting your GMRS license and check out our webpage at HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/frsgmrs" <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/frsgmrs>

Berkeley CERT and Inter-Neighborhood Network (BeCERTAINN) will be presenting at The Arlington Park Clubhouse this March on a weekday evening (Time TBA). The presenter is the co-owner and founder (Geoff Lomax KK6IZS) of the BeCertainn GMRS repeater (GMRS Ch.22 RX 462.725 MHz TX +5 MHz PL 88). The presentation will be on how to use FRS and GMRS radios, a comparison of the two, what radio features to look for, what to buy, operation of the BeCERTAINN GMRS repeater in Berkeley, mutual aid between

neighborhoods sharing resources, etc. CERT members from Richmond to the Berkeley area are welcome. Stay tuned for specifics.

KAROECHO.NET WEBSITE

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (HYPERLINK "<https://www.karoecho.net/events>" <https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at HYPERLINK "<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>

If you haven't already filled out the JOIN form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See HYPERLINK "<https://www.karoecho.net/join>" <https://www.karoecho.net/join>

A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: HYPERLINK "<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>" <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>

Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-duddy world is at HYPERLINK "https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view" https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view

Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay. That and a Speaker sytem Tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation.

For newbies, please visit HYPERLINK "<https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training>" <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!

On every Thursday evening net there will be a training session and/or discussion. Summaries of recent net events are found under our past events page at HYPERLINK "<https://www.karoecho.net/events/past-events>" <https://www.karoecho.net/events/past-events>

Note: See the **KARO ECHO Agenda** for our upcoming Monday, Feb 11, 2019 Meeting see:

HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/events" <https://www.karoecho.net/events> the agenda will be made available no later than the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.

Also all recent KARO ECHO **Minutes** will be found at our **Past Events page**

HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/events/past-events.Past" <https://www.karoecho.net/events/past-events.Past>. Newsletters are on the Documents Page.

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email Don, ni6a@arrl.net